

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
28 April 2005 (28.04.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/036983 A3

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **F16K 15/16, B65D 81/34**

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2004/034361

(22) International Filing Date: 18 October 2004 (18.10.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
60/511,777 16 October 2003 (16.10.2003) US

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **POUCH PAC INNOVATIONS, LLC.** [US/US]; 1610 Northgate Blvd., Sarasota, FL 34234 (US).

(72) Inventor; and

(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): **MURRAY, Charles, R.** [US/US]; 453 South Polk Drive, Sarasota, FL 34236 (US).

(74) Agents: **ANDERSON, Thomas, E.** et al.; Gifford, Krass, Groh, Sprinkle, Anderson & Citkowski, P.C., Suite 400, 280 N. Old Woodward Avenue, Birmingham, MI 48009 (US).

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

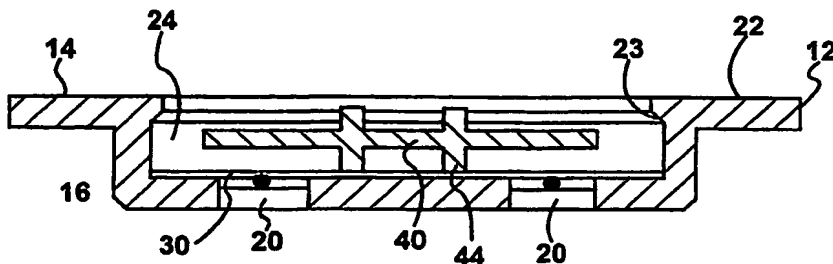
Published:

— with international search report

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
28 July 2005

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: PACKAGING RELEASE VALVE FOR MICROWAVABLE FOOD ITEMS



(57) Abstract: A valve assembly is provided for venting pressurized gases generated from within an enclosed package during a heating of the package. The valve assembly has a membrane element (30), a tubular body (12), and a retaining member (40). The tubular body (12) has a recess (24) defined therebetween. The tubular body (12) has an aperture (20) for venting the pressurized

gasses therethrough. The recess (24) is operative to receive and support the membrane element (20). The restraining member (40) is operative for snap engagement with the tubular body (12) at a rim (23) for retaining the membrane element (30) within the recess (24).

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